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RECENT FIELD TRIPS

Sacramento - Colusa Areas, Saturday, May 12 & Sunday, May 13—Approximately 40 people participated in the two-day field trip. At the meeting place in Sacramento, Saturday morning, Purple Martins were seen flying about the nearby State Capitol building.

At the Sacramento By-pass, good views of Blue Grosbeaks were had by most of the group. Also, of interest here were Lazuli Buntings, American Bitterns, and a few Vaux's Swifts.

The Davis Sewage Disposal ponds were visited next for ducks and shorebirds. Among the latter were Northern Phalaropes busily engaged in feeding while swimming. A few Black Terns were also seen here.

At this point in our trip, word was received of an adult Franklin's Gull which had just been seen in the Woodland Sewer ponds of the Yolo By-pass. Those who hurried over there found it in the midst of a flock of Ring-billed Gulls. This was the birding highlight of the trip as Franklin's Gull has been recorded by sight observations only a very few times in Northern California.

En route to Colusa, part of the group stopped at the Woodland Sugar Refinery's ponds where a pair of Blue-winged Teal, a single Pectoral Sandpiper and several Wilson's Phalaropes were seen.

On Sunday morning, the Sutter National Wildlife Refuge near Colusa was visited. Bullock's Orioles were plentiful and excellent views of Nuttall's Woodpeckers and nesting Tree Swallows were obtained. Two White-tailed Kites were also seen here. A total of 73 species was seen during the two days.—E. A. Albertson, *Historian* & Paul De Benedictus, *Co-leader*.

East Oakland Quarry Walk, June 7—Four of us spent three pleasant hours looking at about 125 species of plants in 113 genera and 41 families. Of these a hundred species were in flower or fruit. We also identified 25 birds but we felt that the birds were a little slighted. Especially admired among the flowers were masses of 3-foot high willow herbs, crimson pinks and thistles, and thickets of cream bushes just breaking into a delicate pinkish froth.—F. Marshall Jenks, *Leader*.

Clark Station in the North Sierra, June 9 & 10—A surprise was in store for those who attended the field trip to the Beth Snyder Cabin at Clark Station, on June 9 & 10. On June 8, a member of the society en route to Clark Station discovered a Red-eyed Vireo singing east of Yuba Pass and before the week-end was over the majority of the thirty-seven members and friends participating had an opportunity to see and hear this bird which is only very rarely encountered in California. Although there was still a lot of snow and the temperature went down into the thirties at night the days were clear and warm. For the early risers the dawn chorus was at its best. This was a week-end for woodpeckers, seven species being seen: Pileated, Lewis' Hairy, White-headed, Black-backed Three-toed; and a Red-shafted Flicker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Six species of warblers showed themselves on the Saturday trip and a Yellowthroat was seen in the marsh on Sunday.

Also on Sunday the Nighthawks put on a fine exhibition of "booming" in the Sierra Valley where we also saw ducks, snipe, bittern and other marsh nesting species.

The sparrows in the valley are always of great interest. Those seen were Vesper, Sage, Brewer and the "Nevada form" of the Savannah Sparrow. The mountain members of this family were White-crowned, Fox and Lincoln Sparrow.

The three birds which almost everyone went to see were the Calliope Hummingbird, the Green-tailed Towhee and the Sage Thrasher and they were all seen. The birds mentioned are only a few which were of special interest out of the 97 species observed in the two days.—Beth C. Snyder, *Leader and Historian*.

Van Damme Beach State Park, June 16 & 17—A sunny week-end welcomed nine birders to explore this scenic coastal area. Only a few Pigeon Guillemot, Black Oystercatchers and Pelagic Cormorants were seen on the rocks off shore, while the Swainson's Thrushes and Wilson's Warblers were quite numerous in the park.

A walk up Fern Canyon provided a Steller's Jay on her nest and also seen was a one male grosbeak. A doe grazing while her twins frolicked on the grassy hillside across from the Audubon campsite provided us with breakfast entertainment.

At the MacKerricher Beach State Park all enjoyed a pair of osprey preening while perched atop an old snag. A total of seven osprey was seen in this area.

It was felt that while the number of species observed was low (57) the outlook for fall and winter birds is hopeful for a trip in early December, in view of the information given by the park rangers who were extremely helpful in making our visit to the area enjoyable.—Marjorie Reu & Oliver Allen, *Co-leaders*.

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of

Miss Edythe Weichselbaum

Mrs. Adene Maisler

Gift of

Miss Hazel E. Roberts

Miss Erline Hevel

Mrs. Blanche R. Mack

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our society: from Oakland, Mrs. George B. Brose, Mr. Edward Amaro, Miss Nelly C. Rem; from Piedmont, Mrs. Jean Widner; from San Francisco, Miss Rita Roth, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar T. Zook, Mr. & Mrs. Fraser Neil, Mr. Ferne Moroney, Mr. V. N. Baldwin, Miss Olga Norstrom, Lt. Gen. Robert M. Cannon, Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Chapman, Mrs. Robert E. Denmark, Miss Mamie R. Goodman, Mr. Otto Hauelsen, Miss Joyce M. Newball, Mr. John Albert Wedell, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis K. Land; from Vallejo, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Flanner.—VALERIA G. Da-COSTA, *Membership Chairman*.

Announcement—NO AUGUST MEETING

FIELD TRIPS FOR AUGUST

On Saturday, August 18, to Bodega Bay and the lower part of the Russian River. Habitat there is open fields, streamside, forest, ocean and ocean cliffs. Previous trips along this coast have been for the spring migration; this time it will be for the fall migration. Shorebirds should be returning from the north. Shearwaters, Petrels and other off shore birds might be flying close to the shore line. Meet at 9 a. m. at the entrance to Doran State Park at Bodega Bay. Bring binoculars, telescopes, lunch and friends. Leader, Gordon L. Bolender, LLberty 2-5216, president of the recently organized, Redwood Region Ornithological Society with headquarters at Santa Rosa.

On Saturday and Sunday, September 8 and 9, to Moss Landing and Monterey overnight. On Saturday take U. S. 101 south to the Monterey Peninsula cutoff (Route 156) 9 miles north of Salinas. Turn west to Castroville, then north (right) on Route 1 for 3 miles. Meet at 9 a. m. near the bridge over Elkhorn Slough. Distance from Bay Area is 110 miles. Driving time is 13 hours. This spot offers beach, ocean lagoon, pond, marsh, and open grass land habitat all in one package. At this time the migration of loon, grebe, albatross, fulmar, shearwater and petrel takes place. Last year Elegant Terns, Golden Plovers and Knots were seen. After lunch go to the Coast Guard pier where we will assemble at 2 p. m. From here we will bird along the coast to Pigeon Point. A side trip to the mouth of the Carmel River for Baird and Pectoral Sandpipers will be made at the close of the day.

On Sunday, at 9 a. m. depart from Sam's Warf on a party boat for a trip off the Monterey coast. Allow one-half hour for parking car at the Municipal Parking Lot, walking to Sam's Wharf, and boarding boat. Do not park in the metered zones. Return will be at 2 p. m. Be sure to wear warm clothing, bring lunch and seasick pills. This trip will be at the time of heavy migration of ocean birds that travel on a route fairly close to the Monterey area. Skua, Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters, Ashy and Fork-tailed Petrels, Black-footed Albatross, Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers were some of the species seen last year. Fare \$4.50 per person. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society Inc. and send to Harold G. Peterson, 3548 65th Ave., Oakland 5. Names will be placed on the passenger list in the order received.

Co-leaders, Richard Stallcup DO 9-3185 and Paul DeBenedictis TH 8-5240.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$1.50 per year.

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